

MEDICAL APPEAL

SEC OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE SENDS CT SCAN TO WALES FOR 'INDEPENDENT' ASSESSMENT

QC-----) "The job of the doctors at the appeal is to decide the medical condition of the claimant, if asbestosis exists"

DR ----- TOO EXPERIENCED) wanted to know about previous medical boards etc, mainly concentrated on the 'outside' doctor's findings at Ross Hall¹

DR -----) asking about claimant's childhood, the polio he had and whether or not he had experienced breathlessness then. Claimant said No. When was he first aware? Claimant: 1979 when he became badly breathless; when he went to the GP was also told he had finger-clubbing. A CT scan done at that time but the report got lost (obviously not by the patient who never sees the thing). Dr----- wanting to 'calculate breathlessness'. How many stairs at a time before having to stop? How long to get breath back? Breathless in bed or seated? When was claimant first aware of asbestos exposure? Did claimant have any idea of the amount of exposure? When did he start having trouble with his eyes?

We had thought the last Appeal had been adjourned and prepared for this Appeal in that light. But then we discovered that it wasn't so much Adjourned as rendered null and void. We had thought the doctor's opinions at the Adjourned Appeal would still stand and thus assumed it was a matter of establishing the percentage assessment. Is this grounds to appeal to the Commissioner on a point of Law?

¹ private hospital; you can go there and pay for the privilege of a CT Scan

Medical Appeal Tribunal (get sorted on these before the 'Appeal')

1. *Age:*
2. *Work history/degree of exposure:*
3. *Smoker?*
4. *Was the victim referred by his/her own GP? When? Who first suggested making a claim? Have any other medical experts or given their opinion? Are they diagnosing asbestos-related disease or saying it's a possibility?*
5. *Dyspnoea (difficult breathing) on exertion. Breathlessness:* is walking restricted? How far without stopping? How long till you can continue walking again? Can you climb stairs? Is breathing more difficult exhaling or inhaling? Is it the same no matter the time of year? What time of the day is worse? morning, afternoon or night? What about in bed, propped up on pillows, sleep sitting up? Can you sleep? if not feel choking...unable to breath properly? Can you lift arms above head or is it painful and tiring? Nervous outdoors, especially when crossing road? Social life severely limited, must travel by car or taxi everywhere? Can you do maintenance around house, rely on relations or tradesmen now to do DIY? Angina? Your distance, speed and manner of walking? Does your wheezing bother your wife or husband? How did you get about? Do you need someone to walk with? Can you use public transport? or taxis? Can you do the same pastimes (DIY, fishing etc) as before. Difficult stooping to put on shoes. Feeling of constant lethargy?
5. *Sputum?* clear, almost white, frothy/foamy? Wheezing; coughs, same all year round? Rely constantly on inhalers? (what about nitroinhaler spray or does it cause nitroinhaler spray headaches?) Pain killers?
6. *Chest/heart problems;* ankle swelling; angina:
7. *Hospitalization?* (medical history); have you been an in-patient? can you name any doctors or consultants you've seen? Any letters?
When did you become medically unfit to work? Did the union ever advise you to see a lawyer?
8. *Other medical information?* (CT scan?)
9. *Anything else?*